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SAPC-6184 ✓

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Contracting Officer

11 May 1956

THROUGH : Deputy Project Director

SUBJECT : Procedure for Tech Orders

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1. My attention has been drawn to several recent messages to and from [REDACTED] concerning field modifications of equipment. An example is [REDACTED] (IN 00969) which was dispatched to Fulkerson from [REDACTED] and directs the former to check and if necessary replace certain items on particular aircraft. I feel sure there will be an increased flow of such communications covering all equipment in use by the Field Detachments.

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2. I believe it essential that you develop in consultation with the Director of Materiel a reasonably orderly procedure for the conduct of this type of business. It is clear to me that we should not interfere with the kind of extremely helpful informal advice contained in [REDACTED]. Moreover, it must be assumed that as in this instance advice and instructions will originate at [REDACTED] or with our suppliers and that none of us in this Headquarters will have any technical basis for questioning such advice. On the other hand, it is essential that we know of any substantial modifications that are to be made and that the Detachments report to us on the progress of such modifications. Moreover, we must be in a position both to restrain our suppliers if they threaten to overwhelm our Detachments with minor field modifications and to stimulate our suppliers if they are not keeping the Field Detachments advised of the results of further testing and development.

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3. I would suggest that the way to satisfy these needs might be as follows:

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a. The Detachments and the suppliers should be encouraged to use informal communications (like [REDACTED]) which would however flow through this Headquarters for reporting deficiencies, suggesting adjustments, and advising of the shipment of sub-assemblies and other items to be available for field modifications or replacements if desired and needed.

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b. On the other hand, when it comes to actual field modifications a more formal procedure should be employed. Suppliers should be required to list all proposed field modifications in a comprehensive and orderly manner and use some numbering system so that specific modifications may be conveniently referred to in our communications. Normally the suppliers should recommend such modifications to this Headquarters and the Detachment should then be either instructed to make the modification, given permission at the discretion of the Detachment Commander, or if it is rejected by this Headquarters, not informed about it.

4. No doubt there are established procedures of which I am not familiar for dealing with this matter and the above are merely suggestions. I do request, however, that prompt action be taken to develop a procedure and to inform both our suppliers and the Detachments what that procedure is. I also request that proper records be set up in this Headquarters so that we will have from the beginning a complete list of contemplated modifications to be made in the field and can keep track of the status of such modifications as applied to Detachment A.

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Project Director

RMB:djm
1-Proj. Contracting Offr
2-RMB Chrono
3-Dep. Pro. Dir.
4-Dir. of Materiel
5-Dir. of Admin (in conn. revision Crypto list)
6-Project Chrono
7-Project Reading

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